

February 2006

# New Expression: February 2006 (Volume 29, Issue 2)

Columbia College Chicago

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalcommons.colum.edu/ycc\\_newexpressions](http://digitalcommons.colum.edu/ycc_newexpressions)



Part of the [Journalism Studies Commons](#)



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 4.0 License](#).

---

## Recommended Citation

Columbia College Chicago, "New Expression: February 2006 (Volume 29, Issue 2)" (2006). *New Expression*. 206.  
[http://digitalcommons.colum.edu/ycc\\_newexpressions/206](http://digitalcommons.colum.edu/ycc_newexpressions/206)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Youth Communication Chicago Collection at Digital Commons @ Columbia College Chicago. It has been accepted for inclusion in New Expression by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Columbia College Chicago.

New Expression



By Teens, For Teens, About Teens

Issue 2 February 2006



# BLOGGING: **The\_Blogosphere**

**NE takes an inside look  
at Blogging** pages 8-9

**Black History  
Month** pages 12-14

**Desperate Housewives'  
Shawn Pyfrom talks  
to NE** page 16



## staff



**Editor-In-Chief**  
Natalia Santillan, Lane Tech

**Metro Editor**  
Vincent Dixon, Gwendolyn Brooks

**Features Editor**  
Devin Ross, Walter Payton

**Graphics/Layout/Website**  
Judith Espino

**Copy Editor**  
Tywana Lesley, John Hope

Megan Daniels, Walter Payton  
Vincent Dixon, Gwendolyn Brooks  
Danielle Eureste, Lane Tech  
Kaya Flowers, Lane Tech  
Melissa Foley, Lane Tech  
Whitney Helm, Young Women's Leadership  
Tywana Lesley, John Hope  
My-Phuong Ly Northside College Prep  
Sophia Lugo, Lane Tech  
Devin Ross, Walter Payton  
Natalia Santillan, Lane Tech  
Charity Taitt, Young Women's Leadership

Lenox Magee, Editorial Advisor  
Philip Costello, Executive Director/Publisher

## credits

### YC Board of Directors

**President**  
Annette Peck, Executive Service Corp.  
(Volunteer)

**Vice-President**  
William D. Frost, Canadian Pacific  
Newsprint (Retired)

**Secretary**  
Charles Boyce, MAE/Johnny Commu-  
nications

**Treasurer**  
Russell Pryor, Dolins, Dolins & Sorin-  
sky, LTD

**Past President**  
John Marshall, Bowater Newsprint

**Board Members**  
Todd Adams, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
Giovanna Breu, People Magazine  
Kevin Davy, Shore Bank  
Jerry Field, Illinois Institute of Technology

Layton Olson, Howe & Hutton  
Alberto Ortega, Institute for Latino  
Progress

Wendell Hunston, Freelance

### Sponsors

After School Matters  
Alphawood Foundation  
Brinson Foundation  
William C. Bannerman Foundation  
Francis Beidler Foundation  
Chicago Community Trust  
Chicago Reader  
Chicago Tribune Foundation  
Christ Church Benevolence Fund  
City Colleges Chicago  
Coleman Foundation  
Columbia College Chicago  
Dow Jones Newspaper Fund  
Elizabeth Morse Genius  
Charitable Trust  
Illinois Arts Council  
Mayer & Morris Kaplan Family  
Foundation  
Kenosha News / Howard Brown  
Lake County Press, Inc.  
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
Newspaper Association of  
America  
Northern Trust Company  
Albert Pick, Jr. Fund  
Polk Bros Foundation  
Relations Foundation  
Roosevelt University  
St. Paul Travelers Insurance  
United Parcel Service  
Howard L. Willette Foundation

### Youth Communication

Columbia College Chicago  
619 S. Michigan Avenue

Phone (312) 922-7150  
Fax (312) 922-7151

[editor@newexpression.org](mailto:editor@newexpression.org)

New Expression is printed by the  
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel



## Letter From The Editor

Knock knock..

Who's there?

NE

NE who?

NE one want to read New  
Expression?

LOL. Now, you KNOW that was a  
funny joke...

In this month's issue, we have arti-  
cles circling "The Blogosphere."  
Inside, you will read about the  
issues which concern the realm of  
blogging; teens reveal too much  
information online, and how some  
reveal too much with too little in  
their online profile pictures.

NE talks one-on-one with actor  
Shawn Pyfrom, where he talks to  
us about his role as Desperate  
Housewives' Andrew Van De  
Kamp and his upcoming new  
project.

We also have a section devoted to  
the past, present and future  
African-American leaders, and a  
page to honor Coretta Scott  
King's accomplishments as a  
human right's advocate.

NE political reporter MY-Phuong  
Ly covers the rumors surrounding  
the upcoming 2008 presidential  
elections; women candidate run-  
ning for the hot seat.

We are always in thirst for reader  
feed-back, so please send ques-  
tions or comments to me at my  
email: santillan.n@gmail.com

Also, if you are interested in join-  
ing our big, happy family, send us  
an email; we would love to have  
you join. Have a very nice, roman-  
tic, love-able Valentine's Day!  
Natalia Santillan  
Editor-In-Chief

# This Month In New Expression

February 2006

## Cover Story

### Blogging: The Blogosphere

MySpace-porn-like pictures.  
Pushing the limit "How little  
is too little."

Page 8



## News

**Communities Get  
Digitally Connected**  
page 5

**The Push For a Woman  
President** page 6

**South Side VS North  
Side** page 7

## Black History Month

**Past, Present and  
Future** page 12

**Coretta Scott King  
Story** page 13

**The "N" Word** page 14

## Entertainment

**Valentine's Day:  
What Are Your Plans For  
V-Day?** pages 20-21

**Q101's Twisted Twelve  
Review** page 19

**Technology: 2006  
Gadgets** pages 23-24



## Michael Schiavo Remarries



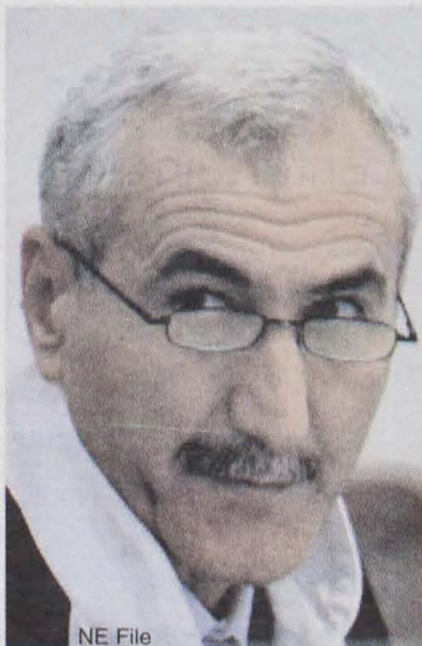
Michael Schiavo, the husband of Florida woman, Terri Schiavo, remarried his 5-year fiancé, Jodi Centonze. Terri Schiavo collapsed in 1990 after suffering from cardiac arrest, which caused intense brain damage. She was later diagnosed to be in a persistent vegetative state. Mr. Schiavo petitioned the decision to keep her alive and asked that her feeding tube be removed. In March of 2005, after Supreme Court decisions, political involvement, and much media input, Mrs. Schiavo's feeding tube was removed on March 15th and died on March 31st at the age of 41. While waiting for Mrs. Schiavo's feeding tube to be removed, Mr. Schiavo and Centonze were engaged for five years and had two children together. Last week, they celebrated their wedding, but it was kept quiet by family members to ward off media attention. Unlike the battle over his late wife's life, Mr. Schiavo's wedding was a quiet one.

## Saddam Judge Have Thoughts on Resign

The chief judge in Saddam Hussein's trial had thoughts on to resign from the trial on January 15, 2006. He had his reasons to resign because of personal reasons and not from the increasing government pressure that has been placed on him. Other pressures that may have lead to his decision would be the statements by officials and various other figures criticizing on his actions taken in the court resulting in Hussein's proceedings getting out of control. Rizgar Mohammed Amin had been asked by various officials to reconsider his resignation.

The trial would still be held on January 24th against Hussein and his seven co-defendants even with Amin decision. There has not been a decision that would allow the head of the five-panel judges to resign or not. If so, another judge would be appointed to take his place. Amin would be the second judge to resign from this 3

month old case. During these three waiting months, Saddam had railed against a judge, was absent at one session, declared that he was tortured and prayed in court. This case is charging Hussein and his co-defendants with the deaths of 140 Shiite Muslims in Dujjal, the event happening in 1982. The 140 deaths were looked upon as an action of revenge for the attempted assassination of Saddam Hussein. The punishment may be a hanging if they are to be convicted of the crime.



## Mining Tragedy ... Again



Another West Virginian mining accident leaves two men dead. Don Bragg and Ellery Hatfield died after a conveyor belt caught

fire. The two men, along with 12 others, were caught inside the mine where fire scorched for forty hours in Melville, West Virginia. The other 12 men were able to escape the fire uninjured, due to oxygen canisters they were carrying that provided them each with only an hour of oxygen. This tragedy, the second in West Virginia for the month, has brought attention to the lack of mine health and safety laws that exist. These laws are "... written with the blood of coal miners," said West Virginian Democrat, Nick Rahall. The Sago mine tragedy, which occurred on January 2nd, 2006, trapped 13 miners in Tallmansville, West Virginia. Although one man survived, the Sago mine was cited 208 times by the Mine Safety and Health Administration. The West Virginian government is now investigating all of the mine explosions and the health risks that their miners face while working. Richard Gates, a Mine Safety and Health Administration district manager, ventilation specialist, and mining engineer from Alabama, is going to direct a team of 8 supervisors and experts in investigating the mining site. This is in hopes to prevent future mining accidents, such as the death of Bragg and Ellrey, as well as the 12 miners from the Sago mining site.



# Communities Get Digitally Connected

By Whitney Helm

Young Women's Leadership Charter School

Today, technology is a fast growing market and to many, knowing how to use a computer is as easy as using a toaster; however, for many communities, there's a lack of resources to enable people to learn these vital functions. Fortunately, that is all about to change with a new program called, "Digital Connectors". The program launched in 2001, by the company One Economy in Columbia Heights/Shaw area of Washington, DC, was one of the first programs to address this growing problem. The goal, according to the One Economy, was to build a team of young people to provide youth-led technical support to the 74 families participating in the cycles of the Digital Community's home-based computer distribution program.

"Youth were chosen because young people are the first to use new technologies and adapt more easily to technology, said Renee Daye, One Economy's Program Coordinator in Chicago.

Because of the program's success, One Economy launched "Digital Connectors" in three other cities. In 2004, it was announced that "Digital Connectors" would be expanding to Chicago, as well as in Battle Creek, Michigan, Chattanooga, Tennessee, Cleveland, and many others.

For the Chicago Chapter of Digital Connectors, One Economy Chicago is committed to enrolling 100 teens from Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) communities into the program and exceeded that goal by enrolling over 120. They also expanded the program so that other youth who live in low-income neighborhoods could also participate. The program currently operates in six Chicago neighborhoods: MidSouth, West Haven, Lawndale, Humboldt Park, Englewood, and South Shore.

"Once the word got out about the opportu-

nities we had, it spread like wildfire," said Daye.

**"Digital Connectors bring more internet and knowledge to the community; it keeps kids off the street."**

The opportunities included: receiving cash stipends, free computers and printers.

The Englewood Chapter has been busy making waves in their community. This summer all six neighborhoods were asked to hold a community promotional event for the Beehive, a website funded by the Allstate Foundation, in which communities are able to research information regarding Childcare, Health, School, Jobs, and Family resources in their communities.

The Digital Connectors passed postcards and other marketing material to spread the word about the Beehive. Due to savvy marketing skills and a good community turn out, Englewood won this challenge. Since then, Englewood has been working to not only provide more computer training, but to get their names and faces out into the community.

"We volunteer at nursing homes," said April Jones, 16, a student at Simeon Career Academy.

Digital Connectors not only helps the community, but also the youth participants.

"We are learning how to volunteer, putting on a career and job fair," said Reggie Williams, Coordinator of Englewood Digital Connectors.

"The program helped me in many ways; I now communicate with others freely," said Crystal Jones, 14, CVS High School. While some take pride in their personal achievements with the program, others are just happy to be apart of it.

"I help connect people with the digital world," said Justin Smith, 16, a student at John Hope College Prep High School.

Brandon Hayes, 16, a Bronzesville Prep Student agrees saying, "Digital Connectors bring more internet and knowledge to the community; it keeps kids off the street".

IN MEMORY  
OF  
FRANK BOTELLO  
&  
JOAN PUSTELNIK



Family and Friends are  
Invited To our Annual  
Valentine Brunch  
with

Melody & Harmony - Strings Serenade

Sponsored by St. Michael School

Sunday, February 12, 2006

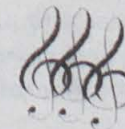


Silent Auction - Prizes for All

Mass at: 9:30 a.m.

Brunch Immediately  
following Service.

ticket donations:  
Children - \$5.00  
Adults - \$10.00







# The Push for a Woman President

**By My-Phuong Ly**  
Northside College Prep

For the upcoming 2008 presidential elections, there have been rumors circulating that there might be a woman running for president. Laura Bush, stating that there will be a woman president within the next few terms, has supported these rumors.

"I like the idea of having a woman president in office," said Winona Lozada, a freshman at Northside College Preparatory High School. She specified that the woman might be a Republican or even Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice.

Rice has stated that she has no desire to run for the upcoming 2008 presidential election, even if she has the full support of Laura Bush. She has been working devotedly as a member of Bush's administration.

Rice attended the CNN interview the day prior to her departure to Liberia to attend the inauguration of the first

female president in Africa, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. She also visited Ghana and Nigeria to promote education and AIDS treatment awareness after the inauguration event. At the event, Laura Bush took the role to lead the United States delegation.

The reason why the women president being elected and Mrs. Bush had to attend the meeting was because she wanted to represent the United States and their support for having female leaders.

"I think [that having a woman president] is possible; however, it would take more time for the public to absorb this shock because there has always been discrimination against women," said Jennifer Tran, a junior at Northside Prep.

Rice has been consistently denying her intentions on running for president in 2008. Even if her reply was genuine, the authorities at the White House like the idea of her running. Though other Republicans, such as John McCain, are quite open in suggesting that they might run for president, Rice's name is heard more often. Her wishes have been denied however, since the Republican Party want to keep their party as the majority in the upcoming election.

They also want to keep it away from Hillary Rodham Clinton, who's currently a New York Democratic senator; she's also been rumored to possibly run for president.

"I'm not opposed to having a woman president, but I am interested to see how the public will react," said Joanna Stack, a junior at Northside Prep.

Hillary Clinton has also been rumored to run in the 2008 elections.

"I would have no problem having Hilary Clinton as president," said Vinh Nguyen, a junior at Taft High School. "I would vote for her because she puts the people first."

She hasn't publicly declared her decision, though her actions may speak for themselves. Through her involvement in politics since 1992, there is no doubt that she would want to get involved in the works at the Oval Office.

"I'm not against women presidents, but both Clinton and Rice don't seem to have the best in mind for the US, they seem to have the political party going first," said Chris Orosz, a junior at Notre Dame.

"I think that the day America has a woman for president is very far off. It's an ideal that has been presented in our society, but people just won't go for the idea," said Bonnie Vu, a senior at Northside Prep.

"It's possible, but not probable," said Karen Huynh, a sophomore at Northside Prep.

Even if there will not be a woman running for the 2008 elections, one thing is for certain, women are slowly having their views and roles known throughout the world and are emerging even stronger in the political world. The United States will be seeing more women political figures.



COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO  
IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE

# open doors scholarship

A SCHOLARSHIP  
PROGRAM EXCLUSIVELY  
FOR GRADUATES  
OF THE CHICAGO  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Approximately 50 awards of up to \$5000.00 per  
year (renewable each year) available to students who qualify.

Recipients participate in the college's network of support  
during their freshman year.

Recipients are also assigned to a college or community  
mentor to assist in the transition to college life.

## eligibility

Students who will graduate from a Chicago Public School in  
the current school year.

Students who have earned a cumulative grade point  
average of 2.5 or better on a 4.0 scale.

Students who have demonstrated financial need through  
their FAFSA application.

Creative students who have a strong interest in the arts,  
communications and/or media.

## how to apply

No separate application form is necessary for the  
Open Doors Scholarship.

Students must submit a complete undergraduate admissions  
file by April 1 for first consideration. (A complete file includes  
the undergraduate application form and essay, one letter  
of recommendation, a high school transcript, and \$35  
application fee)

Students must apply for financial aid using the Free  
Application for Student Assistance (FAFSA) available on line at  
[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) before April 1 for first consideration.

Awards are made until funds are depleted, so early application  
is encouraged!

TO REQUEST AN APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO  
COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO, CALL 312.344.7130, OR  
APPLY ON LINE AT [WWW.COLUM.EDU/APPLY](http://WWW.COLUM.EDU/APPLY)

**Columbia** COLLEGE CHICAGO   
INNOVATION IN THE ARTS | PERFORMING, MEDIA, AND COMMUNICATION ARTS

news 07

## South Side VS. North Side

Students use Democracy to uncover differences  
between CPS Schools

By Vince Dixon  
Gwendolyn Brooks

Attaining enhanced academic programs and adequate facilities comparable to high schools on the north side are the first goals for the student members of the Democracy Schools program at Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy on Chicago's south side.

The program is sponsored by the Mikva Challenge, an organization dedicated to using politics and activism to improve student participation and awareness of issues affecting their city, community and school. Brooks has established the group for the first time and has selected students that display acute leadership qualities and speaking skills to participate in the organization. The group assembles each week to discuss the organizations premise of using the student body and surrounding community, to help discover and find solutions to issues regarding the Pullman area school.

"The purpose of the program is to increase student voice in the community," says E. Robbins, one of the program's teacher representatives.

After research and student interviews, the program members decided to tackle an issue that has disappointed the school for nine years.

Brooks' Democracy Schools members students chose to utilize the first year of its program to encourage the passing the \$20 million dollar state bill needed to finish the school's rehab.

In 1997, Mendell Catholic high school was rehabilitated to form Chicago Public Schools' South Side College Preparatory, now renamed Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory. Though the rehab consisted of several new features for the selective enrollment academy, the job was never finished according to the plan. Nine years later, and after several attempts, Brooks has failed to receive an auditorium, new gymnasium; to replace the eighty year old existing structure as well as new art facilities promised to them during the rehab.

They also researched the school budgets, services and facilities of Chicago Public Schools' magnet and selective enrollment high schools.

"They've noticed that there was as difference between north and south side schools," Robbins stated.

According to the members of the program, the research showed that many south side high schools were renovated or rehab facilities compared to the new construction schools on the northern side of the city. The students also mentioned that many special high tech amenities such as conservatories, planetariums, theatres available to the public and business cafes are offered at more north side institutions than south side schools.

"I don't think it's fair because as big prep schools we should be considered equal," states Brooks junior, Alexis Isaacs.

Meeting every week, the student members of the program have taken several large steps to complete their goal including speaking with Senate President Emil Jones, Alderman Anthony Beal and CPS CEO Arnie Duncan. The students have also created petitions and fundraiser to raise awareness and have contacted local businesses for support. However, it is the school and student body that the group hopes to reach.

"[Democracy Schools] is a good program because it's bringing the whole school and faculty together," Says Democracy member Edward Reese.

Mikva sponsors several other Democracy Schools programs throughout the city.

New Expression February 2006



# MYSPEACE PROFILES

## HOW LITTLE IS TOO LITTLE?

**By Devin Ross**  
Walter Payton

The new trend these days doesn't deal with clothes or the hottest new gadgets. It actually deals with the world of the Internet. It is what's called blogging.

For the past couple of years, blogging has spanned across the globe, sparking new, fun and dangerous relationships. There have been many incidences where pedophiles have been able to seek out their next victim by simply surfing profiles on sites such as MySpace, Livejournal or Xanga.

Now having the knowledge that many surf the profiles of MySpace, which is the fourth most viewed website in the United States, to find potential relationships, users upload risqué pictures to impress those surfing the site's profiles. Although the web communities have such restrictions so that no one is able to upload nude pictures or porn in any form, many find loopholes in the law. Teenage females start to post pictures with themselves in thongs and bikinis that barely cover their whole topside or pose in their underwear. The teenage male situation of posting risky pictures isn't as bad as the females', while they only post shirtless pictures.

"There are some MySpaces with naughty things on them," said Gabriel Perez, a sophomore at Walter Payton College Prep.

As blogging and online profiles used for sparking new friendships and dating, many high schools in the nation have begun to ban the web communities in fear of the influence on their pupils. One school official that took the situation to a new high was Reverend Kieran McHugh, who is the principle of the private school Pope John



XXIII Regional High School in Sparta, New Jersey. McHugh demanded that every teenager attending the school must shut down their online profiles or blogs or they would be suspended. The principle said that it was to protect pedophiles from discovering new victims. However, many students thought that this could be considered as a violation of free speech.

The combination of risqué pictures, giving out vital information and causing controversy can be a dangerous combination to expose to students in the school systems. For example, at Walter Payton College Prep, the web community of Xanga was banned immediately after a pupil began posting things that caused certain individuals to make racial comments. As MySpace and Facebook gained popularity, they were to be put into the same category as producing controversy. Some believe that banning the reading of the blog at school was not doing enough.

"They weren't stopping her from writing it, just stopping us from reading it at school," said Perez, 16. "It's stupid because it still would have caused problems, wherever it was read."

Another sophomore at Payton, Hadieh Tazangi, also thinks that banning Xanga was a rash move.

"There's nothing wrong with it and they banned it as if it was something bad," said Tazangi.

Although teens are seen as the majority of the community using blogs, as of June 2003, there have been an estimated 2.9 million active blogs, according to the Blogcount. From a survey done by Pew Internet and American Life Project that included 2,871 internet users, six percent of the adult populations also have a blog of their own, while 16 percent only read blogs. The blog-reading audience consists of about 20 percent of the newspaper reading audience and 40 percent of the size of the talk-radio audience.



# The Effect of Blogging Towards Teen Suicide

By Megan Daniels

Walter Payton

In the teenage world today, so many teens expose too much personal information about themselves and their lives on to the internet. Teens who are especially going through mental or physical problems, such as depression and/or thoughts of suicide, hope to find someone who they can relate to. Even though some teens may be seeking actual help, this can be highly dangerous because of the fragile mind state of a potential suicide victim.

There is no genetic or scientific proof that explains why teenagers have feelings of depression, but it can sometimes lead to suicide. The cause for teen suicide could be anything from a terrible home-life to a break-up from a meaningful relationship. All that scientists and researchers are aware of is that it happens, and it happens every day. With every 78 seconds that passes, one teenager attempts to commit suicide, and with every 90 seconds that passes, one teenager succeeds. In 2005, 24.7% of high school students in America have had thoughts of attempting suicide, and 8.7% have acted on those thoughts. That adds up to a total of about 30,000 lives per year taken by suicide, according to the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System, a nation wide research team in America.

There are hundreds of organizations all over the country that are dedicated to trying to prevent teen suicide. They do this by informing students and families of the common signs of suicidal behavior. They all suggest some sort of release such as a journal to get the teen's feelings out in the open.

Personalized blogs, such as Xanga, have become one of the main sites of journaling for teenagers. These online journals allow the writer to create a username and customize a blog that can be updated with entries as often as they'd like. It also allows other users to post comments with just a click of a button. There is no censor on what is posted on

these "online journals," including pictures. Online blogs have become sort of a community for teens with common interests. There are online groups that anyone can join, called bloggings. Bloggings usually pertain to a certain issue or topic that users relate to or agree on. Examples of bloggings range from "Animal Lovers" to "Basketball Players". They can also be created by any user, and they are not censored. Bloggings about sex and drugs are created and hundreds of people join to be able to communicate with others. There are also Bisexual, Gay, and Lesbian bloggings that allow teens, who might be nervous about "coming out", to relate with other users and gain support and advice. When it comes to the bloggings regarding teen suicide, it can sometimes be anything but beneficial to communicate with other teens in that particular mind set.

Bloggings, used on Xanga, called "Suicide... a tempting thought.", "Group Suicide", and "Suicidal Friends Club" are just some of the bloggings where teens with suicidal thoughts join to befriend other teens with similar thoughts. Though some people's intentions are to help prevent teen suicides, several support each other in their choice. Some users even persuade others to do it, and teenagers in that position are far more likely to listen to other teens, who they can relate to, instead of a counselor or a family member.

Many adults are familiar with the bogging sites and its purpose and feel as if it's the wrong method of help.

"I am familiar with Xanga and their bloggings. Teens should not be seeking help from other suicidal teens because it could result in persuasion; they should consult a professional or share their emotions with an adult who knows how to handle the situation," said a school counselor, who wishes to remain anonymous.

Online blogs, which may have seemed like a fun way to share your day with your friends, have quickly evolved into a possible threat for several depressed teens. Some feelings need to be released about suicide and depression, however venting to complete strangers can put anyone in a dangerous situation.

## Essay Contest

How does blogging directly affect you, your friends and your lifestyle?

Do you think blogging is good or bad?

We will choose a winner, and your essay will be published in our next issue!

### Send them to:

New Expression  
619 S. Wabash  
Chicago, IL 60605

Or email:

lenox@newexpression.org  
Questions? 312.922.7150



# The Year-round Schooling Dilemma

## Point

By Whitney Helm

Young Women's Leadership

Mayor Daley's plan to turn Chicago Public Schools into Year-Round Schools is ridiculous. It is no secret that CPS schools over the past few years have been pulling lackluster scores on standardized tests. The newly implemented "No Child Left Behind" act hasn't performed as well School Officials would have hoped. Now is an effort to once again improve our lacking school system Mayor Daley, who has publicly lobbied for Year-Round schools for more than a decade is now trying to bring that plan into Chicago.

Year Round schools have been a fixture in countries like China and India for years. However, this idea hasn't been mainstreamed into the states and has been the subject of debate for many years. This idea may be good for other countries, but to introduce the concept to Americans who have had summer breaks for years is going to get more than a bad response.

There is no conclusive evidence that Year-Round schools do have better test scores or curriculums. Therefore, changing to a premise in which there is no sufficient evidence is not only ridiculous but in bad taste for schools. The CPS system has been through so many changes and laws that were supposed to help but hasn't. Why switch to a market in which there is no evidence for the schools in the states. The expression "What is good for the goose, is not always good for the gander" rings very true in this situation just because it may work in other schools whose curriculum maybe different from that here is something that is completely unfounded and a disregard for our school system.

Another problem that is raised with the Year Round school issue is that more than 90,000 teens have had to attend summer school in the past, with a Year Round school the summer months would be divided between more academic work and recreation. This is eliminating not only family vacation and bonding time but fun and interesting programs for youth. It

is no secret that some teens don't learn through the classroom that was the purpose of summer programs to provide fun and enjoyable activities while promoting learning.

Instead of creating potential problems for the CPS later, why not just improve the core problems of the system as it stands? Longer schooling isn't the problem; the problem is getting students to learn and relating testing material to what students are learning in school.

## Counter Point

By Natalia Santillan  
Lane Tech

In October, Mayor Daley expressed his intent to incorporate year-round schooling into the Chicago Public School district.

Some may be happy to know that financial constraints stand in the way of implementing this plan into action. Another hindrance to the year-round schooling idea is that it's unpopular. Other's think that it's ridiculous.

Believe me; I enjoy summer vacation as much as any other stressed out high-school student does, but I think that having a year-round school system would prove to be advantageous for us.

First of all, many are unaware that the term "year-round schooling" is really a misnomer. The schedule of a typical year-round school would cut short summer vacation, but additional breaks would be scheduled between certain periods within the school year.

According to the National Association for Year-Round Education (NAYRE), the year-

round calendar is organized into instructional periods and vacation weeks that are more evenly balanced across 12 months than the traditional school calendar. The balanced calendar minimizes the learning loss that occurs during a typical two-month summer vacation.

Aside from the idea that we all would not be entirely losing out breaks, we must think about the competition for jobs in the economy of the world.

With a longer education, and less time to mingle around, we will be capable of rising up to the standard of other countries, and be able to compete for the jobs of the global economy. Often one hears the facts that in countries like India and China; students attend school for 250 days. Currently, we attend school for 180 days, but with year-round schooling, we would go to school for 240 days.

The history of why summer breaks exist: in the summertime, children were expected to help with the family's farm. You don't see that happening anymore. Progress and reform in our education must ascend.

When students go back to school after a two month vacation, students return to school with a "blank" mind. Summer long vacations really interrupt smooth education, and this turns to be a big disadvantage to us students.

Another benefit of this plan would be that receiving our high school graduation certificate would take less than four years to accomplish. Some of our state legislators see the advantage of raising the state's required minimum number of school days, and it is only a matter of time when a bill will be proposed to legislation. If passed, we will be advantageous in education, with the start of year-round schooling.

\*There are many who oppose incorporating year-round education in school districts, such as the Whetstone Pays (People Against Year round Schooling). There is also an information network on summermatters.org, where this website argues against year round schooling by analyzing school calendars and school districts.\*



# college days

## GAP YEARS: GOOD IDEA?

By Devin Ross

Walter Payton

Throughout the journey in high school, one's mind may be filled with thoughts of their lives after high school, mainly college. Some students are possibly planning for their majors, while others are simply trying to get through their everyday encounters with others.

An easy way to deal with the pressure that goes along with college is taking off a period of time. This is what is known as a gap year. In the Oxford Dictionary, the definition of a gap year states that "it is a period that is taken by the student as a break from education between leaving school and starting a university".

The gap year has just recently begun to rise to the top of the popularity charts in the U.S. as a way to take a break and find one's inner self. This break period has been very popular in Europe for many years, gaining much more popularity once Princes William and Henry decided to take a break from school themselves. Some of the top schools in the U.S. such as Yale, Sarah Lawrence and Harvard have decided to support the decision of taking time off.

Experts such as the admissions dean at Harvard, William Fitzsimmons, believe that the time off to pursue one's own dreams. According to collegegapyear.com (College Gap Year), a gap year is a great way to broaden horizons and develop useful skills that could be beneficial later on in life and quickly change the student's maturity level. During the period off, there are many choices that one can choose to do.

Before attending the first year of college, students may choose to volunteer for multiple organizations as well as going abroad and encountering new cultures that they may never had the chance to do so before. Many also get a job so that they can get ready to pay for college fees. In the process of organizing all of these new and exciting experiences, the student is able to gain fresh knowledge of how to care for oneself; tools that you may have never gained beforehand.

College Gap Year also states that students who have taken a gap year gain more attention from jobs once they have graduated from college. This is because the jobs notice the strong initiative the student has and also the great perseverance. The experience also can help in today's globalized marketplace.

The majority of the population doesn't take gap years because of the road-block made by parents. Parents may be afraid that their child may never want to attend college after a year off or may decide that they are already successful enough in life to not get a higher education.

John Trevino, a sophomore that attends Walter Payton College Prep, agrees with the point that he may never want to go back to school once he takes a year off.

"I'm too lazy," Trevino said. "If I took a year off, I'd never go back."

The consequences of taking a year off not only include mental changes, but also financial ones. Some volunteer programs may actually pay the student to participate in their programs, such as AmeriCorps, which is a corporation for national and community service. Jasmine Gonzalez, another sophomore at Payton, thinks that it would be wonderful if the programs did pay for all of their participants.

"I know that in the end however, they wouldn't because they already expect you to know what to do with the rest of your life. I think they should have like a week long seminar or something where they let you try different things to figure out what you want to do."

Consistent with The Education Trust, 37 percent of students who have taken a gap year before college can better manage their money more efficiently and are more likely to graduate in four years.



PAST
PRESENT
FUTURE

COME AND BE  
A VOICE FOR  
CHICAGO YOUTH AT  
NEW EXPRESSION

BE A PART OF **NE**  
TELL US YOUR STORIES AND YOUR CONCERNS AS  
YOUTH LIVING IN CHICAGO.

BE THE VOICE OF CHICAGO YOUTH I

WE NEED TEENS TO HELP US OUT WITH NEXT YEAR'S  
NEW EXPRESSION EDITIONS.

CALL (312)922-7150 FOR MORE INFORMATION



## black history month

# Chicago Leaders Past, Present and Future

By Kaya C. Flowers  
Lane Tech

### Lorraine Hansberry



Lorraine Hansberry was born in Chicago on May 19, 1930. She grew up in a middle-class Chicago neighborhood and attended public school. Her father attempted to overcome the restrictions on letting African-Americans live in certain neighborhoods and resulted in the Supreme Court case, *Hansberry v. Lee*. She attended the University of Wisconsin and worked as a writer for *Freedom* magazine. She married in 1953, to Robert Nemiroff, but they later separated in 1957. In 1959, she wrote her famous play *Raisin in the Sun*. Her play depicted the life of the Younger family living in Chicago and was based off of her experience living in Chicago's Woodlawn neighborhood. This led her to be the first black woman to win the New York Drama Critics' Circle's Best Play award. Since then, her play has been found in school libraries, and on stage as well. In 2004, her play went on Broadway, featuring names such as Sanaa Lathan, Sean Combs, and Phylicia Rashad. It came in second place for amount of tickets sold for a play and broke ticket sale records at the Royale Theater. At the age of 34, Hansberry died of lung cancer in 1965.

### Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson



Reverend Jesse Jackson was born in Greenville, South Carolina on October 8th, 1941. He moved from the South to study at the University of Illinois in 1959. He transferred to North Carolina A&T, where he became student body president and a quarterback football player. He received his bachelors degree in Sociology and then attended the Chicago Theological Seminary, but left in 1966 to become a Civil Rights leader. In 1965 he joined Martin Luther King Jr. and his Southern Christian Leadership Conference and supported all of their movements. In 1966, the SCLC formed a Chicago Freedom movement. Jackson gathered other African-Americans in Chicago to help Dr. King. Jackson and other Chicago ministers marched through neighborhoods and also worked to improve economic conditions through Operation Breadbasket. He was named national director of the Chicago branch of Operation Breadbasket. Under his administration, local supermarkets hired more blacks and more products from black businesses were stocked in stores. In 1969 and 1970, he led the hungry strike of Illinois to Springfield in order to raise politicians awareness of the hunger in the state. In 1996, he combined his own two organizations, Rainbow and PUSH Coalition (People United to Save Humanity) into the Rainbow Coalition with its office in Chicago. Reverend Jackson has influenced many Chicagoans in his 'adopted' state and has many more people to touch through his leadership.

### Barack Obama



Barack Obama was born on August 4th, 1961 in Hawaii. He graduated from Columbia University in the year 1983 and in 1985 he moved to Chicago. In Chicago, he worked to improve living conditions in low-income neighborhoods that were filled with unemployment, poverty, and crime. As the first African American editor of the *Harvard Law Review*, he graduated from Harvard Law School in 1991. In 1996, he was elected to the Illinois State Senate. Since then, Obama has been dedicated to the public and improving its conditions, and being a leader in Illinois. Obama ran for the Illinois U.S. Senate seat in 2004. After a successful campaign, Obama created a name for himself as not only a leader, but as a real voice for the state of Illinois and the city of Chicago. After being sworn in on January 5th, 2005, Obama has formed the Political Action Committee, proposed his first Senate bill, been listed as one of *TIME* magazine's 100 most influential people in the world, and will continue to speak for those that can not.

BLA  
CK  
HIS  
TO  
RY  
MON  
TH



# Coretta Scott King- The Life & Legacy of the First Lady of the Civil Rights Movement

**By Kaya Flowers**  
Lane Tech

They say that behind every great man stands a strong woman. In the case of Coretta Scott King and her husband, civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the phrase held more than just truth. It held grace and beauty. It held a strong-hold and support. It held the legacy that Dr. King left behind and his wife continued for years.

Born on April 27th in 1927, Scott was the second child born to Obediah and Bernice Scott in Heiberger, Alabama. Living on a farm that her family owned, she and her siblings, Edythe and Obie, had to pick cotton during the Depression to help their family financially. She attended Lincoln Normal High School in Marion, Alabama and in 1945, she graduated as valedictorian. Scott went on to receive a bachelors in music and education at Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio. She received scholarships to study violin and took voice lessons at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. Moving to Boston to study singing, Scott met Martin Luther King Jr., who was a theology student at Boston University. The two married on June 18, 1953. A year later they moved to Montgomery, Alabama where Dr. King became the pastor at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church. On November 17th, in the year 1955, the King's welcomed their first child, Yolanda Denise, into the world. A few months later, in January of 1956, a bomb was thrown into the King home. Although no one was hurt, Dr. King was not home and Scott saved their baby as well as herself.

The next year, Martin Luther III was born on October 23, 1957. That year, Scott and Dr. King voyaged to Ghana to celebrate the country's independence. In the year 1959, Dr. and Mrs. King traveled to India to study Mahatma Gandhi and his teachings. Scott visited Switzerland in 1962 to serve as a spokesperson for Women's Strike for Peace. The family moved to Atlanta, Georgia and her husband became the co-pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church along with his father. A year later, the Kings welcomed another child, Dexter Scott, on January 30th. Three years later, in 1963, their fourth and final child, Bernice Albertine, was born on March 28th. Scott devoted her life to raising her and Dr. King's four children. Her husband devoted his life to his family as well, but Scott became the firmness and support for the King family. In August of 1963, Dr. King made his famous "I Have a Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial. This speech depicted how Dr. King wanted the world to be. It verified his peaceful fight for African-American rights. It was this speech that Scott took on to be her legacy. On the day of April 4th in 1968, Dr. King's life was taken away. Since that day forward, Scott held her head high and continued her husbands' peaceful fight for equal rights in America. That same year, she developed a center in Atlanta to remember her husband and his dream. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change was her way of remembering Dr. King's struggle, life, and hopes for the future. It includes Dr. King's tomb and is the first institution built to recognize an African-American. She became the founding President, Chair, and Chief Executive Officer for the institution. Scott also gave much of her time to training others in becoming leaders as her husband did. In 1979, she went before Congress to establish a national holiday for Dr. King. Years later, on November 3rd, President Reagan signed the bill to give Martin Luther King Jr. a national day celebrated on the third Monday of every January.

It was not until 1986 that Scott and millions of others around the world were able to celebrate the holiday that honored her late husband.

Scott did not stop there. She was the first woman to ever deliver the class day address at Harvard University. She continued to fight for others by becoming Co-Chair of the Full Employment Action Council. This coalition called for equal economic opportunity jobs. It included various organizations including religious, business, and women's rights. Then, in 1983, she formed her own coalition that brought together over 800 organizations called the Coalition of Conscience which sponsored the 20th anniversary of the March on Washington. Scott's advocacy branched out even more when she helped to lead the Mobilization Against Fear and Intimidation in Georgia during 1987. A year later, she became the head of United States delegation of Women for a Meaningful Summit held in Athens, Greece. Although she lead all over the world, Scott still remained a stronghold in her family. In 1985, she and three of her children were arrested at the South African Embassy in Washington D.C. while participating in a protest against the apartheid in Africa. Ten years later, she gave full leadership of her husbands' memorial center to her son Dexter. After 2004, she became interim Chair and her son Martin, III became President of the center. In 2005, Scott suffered from a stroke, but was able to continue working for the improvement of society. Yet on January 31st, the world said goodbye to a civil rights pioneer, advocate, and extraordinary fighter. She died in her sleep in a hospital in Mexico.

Coretta Scott King's life was not measured in years. She received countless awards, doctorates, written three books, and served a position in many organizations. She has continued her husbands' legacy and peaceful fight to better not only the United States but our world. Chicago teenagers all over had something to say about her life and legacy, but they had even more to say about how she helped them live their lives.

"Coretta Scott was a great influence in history. Her death was a major tragedy and it's sad, but she worked hard to give us freedom today," said Justeen Pelt.

"She really helped contribute to Martin Luther King's dream. And it hurts that she's gone, but I hope that her children will take on the same things that their parents did," said Ebonee Young.

"Coretta King was a BIG influence on African-American society! Her husband helped us become equal, and even though she was behind the scenes, she was always there. People don't realize how important she was, but she was just as influential as Dr. King was," said Germaine Hunter.





## black history month

# The N Word

By Tywana Lesley  
John Hope

It's interesting how the African American youth, as well as adults have allowed themselves to turn such an ugly, hurtful, and humiliating word, like nigger, into a common greeting among fellow African Americans.

Once upon a time that word was used to degrade and dehumanize the African American race and, to no surprise, it still is today. Back in the 60s, if a white person dropped the N bomb, a racial confrontation would most likely commence. However, today, the word is used so freely that it seems as if anyone has the right-a-way to use it, racially or not, and no one would think twice about it. You have Caucasian, Hispanic, and/or Asian kids calling their friends "niggas" and no one cares to protest against it. That, I believe, is truly disrespectful and sad. It's bad enough that we have black kids calling each other that name, but it's just disturbing to think of another race using the term candidly.

Some may argue that the racist era is over and that now we can all use the word without having second thoughts and feeling bad about it because of its "new" meaning and spelling. Some may even go as far as claiming to take the word back as empowerment from the "white man". The bottom line is there's no justification for using the word, despite all of the irrational arguments. People fail to realize that the word nigger has a history behind it. In the past black people were beaten, killed, treated poorly, and referred to as a nigger. Activists fought hard to rid the world of that word and the treatment that came with it. They fought, died, lost loved ones, and were subjected to many degrees of inhumane treatment to ensure the freedom and equality of the future generation.

For the black race to be so moronic as to refer to themselves as nigger or nigga, is disrespectful, idiotic, and disregarding to the struggle that our people have gone through. It's a display of ignorance and lack of self worth and self-respect. You don't hear Jewish people referring to each other kikes or Mexican people calling each other spiks or wetbacks. Why? It's because they have some sense of self-respect and acknowledgement of what their people have gone through, something that the African American race lacks. After so many years of being oppressed and forgotten, black people have become so brain-washed to actually think of themselves as being a nigger or nigga. Our oppression should no longer keep us down, thinking of ourselves as being worthless. If anything, we will always be oppressed if we continue to disrespect ourselves with that word. Before anyone else can respect us, we must respect ourselves and we're not doing that by calling each other foul names.

The word surrounds us everywhere, in the music videos, on the radio, on television, etc. Rap and hip-hop artists seem to condone the use of the word. Rappers, like 50 cent, Lil' Wayne, and/or Ludacris, for example, use the word like a first language, disrespecting themselves, the youth, and the race. Young kids idolize these artists and by them behaving profanely, setting a negative example for them, they cause the cycle to continue. Even rappers, like Fat Joe, who's Latino, have used the term.

Using the term is proving to be what the racist white man thinks of us as, ignorant, stupid, and lazy. I would sincerely hope that we don't think of ourselves in this manner. We need to all look deep down into our souls and think about how we are living our lives and consider making changes. Racism can never cease against us until we, African Americans, make some life changes and start to accept ourselves as a people.



# Where to Draw the Line?

## Student Teacher Relationships

By Charity Taitt

Young Women's Leadership Charter School

As a high school student, you are always encouraged to make connections with your teachers, but when does that connection become more than what you bargained for?

You see it all the time "Teacher takes advantage of student", but what you don't see is the fact that students are encouraged day in and day out to build relationships with our teachers outside of the classroom. So, are there things clauses in a teachers contract that prohibits them from forming relationships with students.... no there isn't.

Kai Penn, a 16-year-old student at Young Women's Leadership Charter School says, "When you know things about teachers lives, it isn't quite the students fault when the put

that information out there."

At the majority of high schools, students know each other's drama, and what's going on in each other's lives. However, at a select few high schools, teachers know just as much about student's lives as the student's do. Although, teachers are supposed to keep their private lives, private, when teachers do begin to inform students of their personal lives, it's not necessarily the student's fault. If a teacher chooses to be open about their lives to students, it should be the teacher's responsibility to know enough is enough. When a student becomes uncomfortable with knowing too much about a teacher's life, that

when the boundaries have become crossed, and that's when the teacher should take the initiative to be more of an authority figure toward the student.

When you form a relationship with a teacher and once you become comfortable with that particular teacher is it okay for them to share their personal stories with you as well. At most high schools, in the Chicago land area relationships with teachers are not unlikely. In fact, at smaller high schools relationships with teachers are just as common as a relationship between two peers. The only difference in the two is the age gap.

Teachers relate to their students because they've been in their shoes before, and most of the time the advice a

teacher gives you is better than some you would get from a parent. Teachers spend more time with students than parents, as students you spend at least 9 hours a day with your teachers.

Jillian Shallow, a 15-year-old student at Young Women's Leadership Charter School says, "Since my school is so small, a relationship with your teacher is necessary, but when you know too much information about your teachers that's when it goes too far. The boundaries should always stay between a student and a teacher; the lines should never be crossed."

There are two types of student-teacher relationships. One you could just call, the student-teacher relationship. This is the relationship where the teacher teaches, and the student learns. These are the teachers who let students do their own thing. These are the types of relationships where the student can learn of they want to, and if they don't then they don't. These are teachers who joke around with you and become more of a friend than a teacher. However, this is where the line become blurred, and where students become more relaxed and comfortable with their teachers. Although, building relationships with teachers are far from frowned upon, they are still looked at as suspicious.

The lines between a student and a teacher are very clear and precise, and they should never be crossed. It's not the teacher's job to entertain the students, teachers are supposed to teach students and shape their minds from being thoughtless, and uneducated to being filled with philosophical thoughts and realistic mindsets. As a student, your job to be educated by your teachers not entertained. In today's society, student-teacher relationships are not the most unlikely thing, for example on The N's hit TV show "Degassi" one of the female leads Paige Michealchuk (Lauren Collins) has an affair with her student teacher Mr. Oleander. In high school, student-teacher relationships are a necessity, but sometimes too far are too far.

*Dora La Couture*  
*Fashion Consultant*

Bridal Gowns- Bridesmaid Gowns-Mother of Bride and of The Groom  
Prom Gowns Business Attires Flower Girls Cotillion and Men Suits  
Custom Designs

Dora La Couture  
8246 S. Kimbark  
Chicago, IL 60619  
(733) 374-8863



10% off  
With This  
AD

Visa MasterCard Discover American Express  
doralacouture@sbcglobal.net



**We know** "Andrew Van de Kamp" for running over an elderly woman and getting caught kissing another guy in one of TV's biggest hits, "Desperate Housewives." As one of Hollywood's fastest rising stars, getting to know Shawn Pyfrom should be on our to-do list. Being on top of our game here at New Expression, we caught an interview with Shawn before he got too famous.

**Have you always known that you wanted to be an actor?**

[with acting] My parents started me at four, so I didn't really have a choice, but it was something I grew into. When I was little, my grandparents always said I was a bit of a ham, always wanting to be in the spotlight, so I guess I fit the part of being an actor.

**On that note, what was your first gig?**

When I was still in Florida, it was an Oshgosh commercial, but here in California, my first gig was being a guest on Ellen.

**[Laughs] Oshgosh, that's cute, you've moved up quite a bit. So, okay, I'm sure you've been asked this way too many times, but how does it feel to be a straight actor playing a gay role?**

It's tough when you have to do kissing and groping scenes, it really sucks, but it's the job. It's just a role and sometimes you have to do tough stuff, but it's just acting.

**What other kind of tough stuff have you had to do?**

For one scene in *Desperate Housewives* I had to spit in Marcia Cross' face, and that was so hard! She's seriously one of the nicest people ever, and I felt terrible doing it, but she was actually encouraging me. She was like, 'It's okay honey, but you need to spit more.'

**I'm taking it that as she's your favorite co-worker?**

Yeah, definitely. I spend a lot of set time with her.

**So, you're going to be starring in not only one, but two upcoming movies. What are they about?**

Well in "*The Darkroom*" I play Stanley who basically wakes up and doesn't know where he is. Eventually he befriends a mental institute escapee who sees visions of murders being committed. In the end there's a twist, it's pretty cool.

**Sounds scary. {Laughs} what about the Disney movie?**

It's a remake of the Disney classic, "*The Shaggy Dog*." I play this girl's boyfriend and her dad has this very time consuming job with no time for his family and works for this company that deals with animals. But one day he spills some sort of chemical on him that makes him turn into a sheepdog at random times.

**Interesting. What's it like to go from a dramatic hit show to a kids movie?**

It's really different. I have to play it off for the camera because that's what the director wants. I have to be a lot more animated for it.

**Okay enough about your work life, what do you do when your not shooting?**

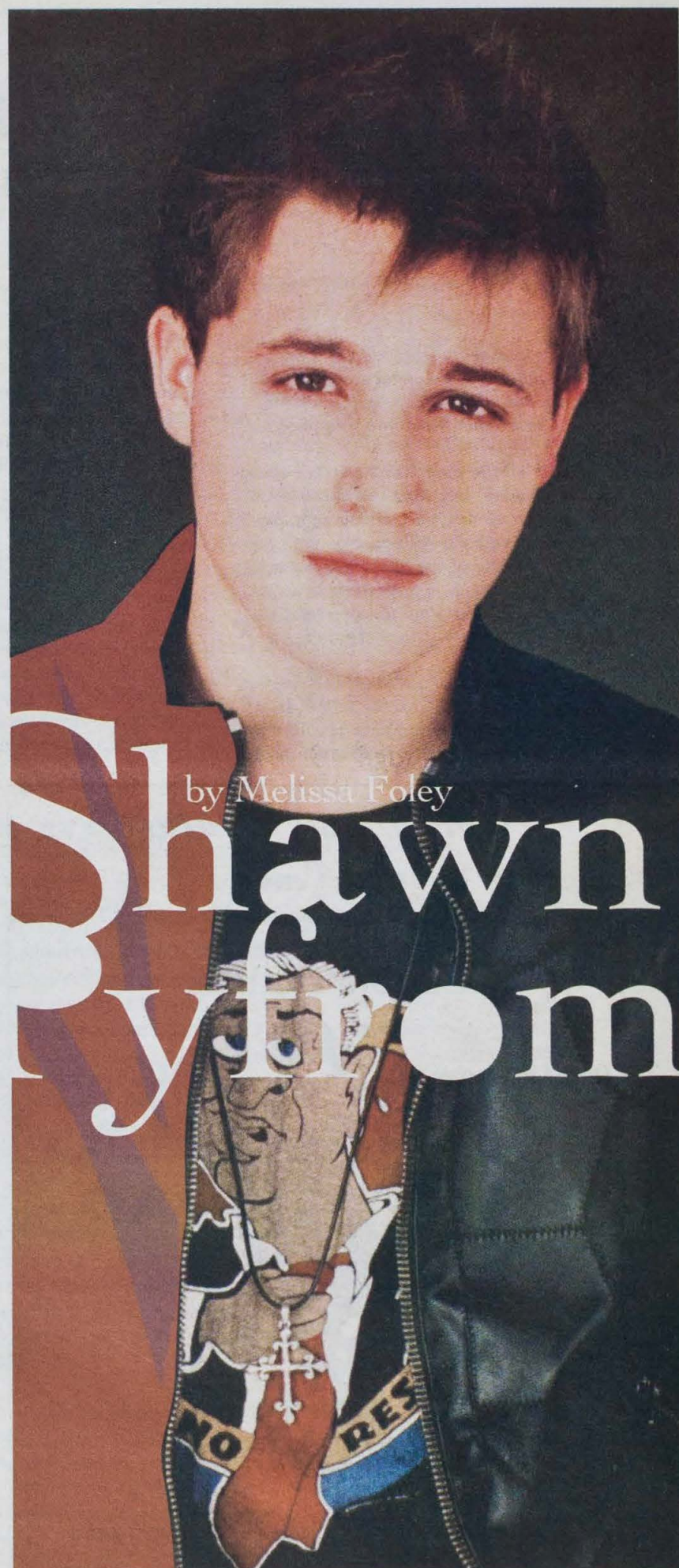
I paint and workout. Recently, I've been getting into biking and me and my friends play soccer when we have the time. I'm on set a lot lately with both movies and the show, so it gets hard.

**Is it hard to be a normal teenager with all that going on?**

Not really, I still have my free time since I'm not in all the episodes of "*Desperate Housewives*," and I'm never really noticed. Like I've never had to deal with a crazy fan, but I just moved out of my parents, so it is kind of hard paying bills.

**Yeah, that's one thing I'm not ready for, paying bills. What about music, any favorite bands?**

I like a lot of different kinds of music. Jazz, rock, blues, rap. Incubus is my favorite band though. And John Mayer's band, John Mayer Trio, they're absolutely amazing. But I like David Bowie and Ray Charles too.





# Entertainment

---

## **Broadway**

Wicked *page 18*

## **Restaurant**

Calo Ristorante *page 18*

## **Music**

Q101 Twisted 12

The Strays *page 19*





# Broadway *Review*



## Wicked

By **Melissa Foley**

Lane Tech

If you liked *The Wizard of Oz*, you'll love the latest Broadway craze, *Wicked*.

*Wicked* is the story of the two witches of Oz before Dorothy. A story of their teens years and secret friendship. Two girls with completely different lifestyles, sharing the same dream: to visit the Emerald City.

The musical reimagines a children's fairy tale into a more mature and politically correct way. It also adds humor to the story by giving a comical touch to the memorable parts of the movie, such as why the monkeys fly and where Dorothy get her ruby red slippers.

With Ana Gasteyer (SNL) as Elphaba, the Wicked Witch of the West, and Kate Reinders (*Good Vibrations*, *Into the Woods*) as Glinda the Good Witch, there is life brought to the stage. Although the show drags in some parts, *Wicked* seems to be the Broadway crowd pleaser of the year!

# Restaurant *Review*



## Calo Ristorante

By **Danielle Eureste**

Lane Tech

Are you looking for an elegant restaurant to go on Valentine's Day? Calo Ristorante is a great restaurant to go to. With a great atmosphere, food, and service, you can't go wrong. Calo Ristorante is located at 5343 N. Clark. Reservations are probably your best bet because they're always busy. To call and make reservations, the number is (773) 271-7725

It doesn't matter what kind of food you like, they've got it all. Of course being an Italian restaurant, the menu is mostly Italian, but they also have things ranging out to steak, fish, veal, crab legs and lobster tail.

For a couple to have dinner at Calo Ristorante the price will be about \$30.00, but the food is worth it. You have a little candle light for the romantic touch. I guarantee if you take your date here, neither of you will regret it.



# MusicReview

## Q101's Twisted Twelve: Hot Hot Heat, Death Cab For Cutie, and Psychedelic Furs

By Megan Daniels

Walter Payton



When the doors of the Aragon Theater opened for night two of Q101's Twisted Twelve event fans started pouring in. The first thing that each person entering the building did was they went through security to assure the safety of everyone else. Some fans headed for the merchandise that was being sold for Death Cab For Cutie, Psychedelic Furs and t-shirts for The Twisted Twelve event while others went to a booth that gave prizes for a certain number of Chin-Ups. Most people rushed upstairs to the theater to make sure that they got a good spot.

The Concert started with Hot Hot Heat, which would be followed by Death Cab For Cutie, and finally, Psychedelic Furs. Hot Hot Heat performed several very popular songs such as; "Dirty mouth", "Goodnight Goodnight", "Talk to me Dance with me", "You owe me an IOU", and others. They finally finished with a bang with their popular song "Bandages". By the end of their performance people had loosened up and started dancing along with the music. The quality of the performance was excellent. The group performed very well and did not make any highly noticeable errors. Each song that they chose to play was energetic, and since they only were given a little less than one hour of playing time they had to choose their songs carefully. At the end of the performance by Hot Hot Heat, the main singer, Steve Bays announced how glad he was to have such a terrific audience for his last performance of 2005.

The transition from Hot Hot Heat to Death Cab For Cutie was about 25 min-

utes and by that time the fans had become eager for the next performer. As soon as Death Cab For Cutie walked on the stage the crowd roared with cheers. The band quickly started off their performance with the song, The New Year. They continued with songs such as, Title and Registration, Sarah Said, and ended with a very popular song, Sound Of Settling. The band was completely pumped up which brought up the entire spirit of the concert hall. The lead on guitar and vocals, Ben Gibbard, was dripping with sweat. The quality of the performance was fairly good. The Guitar seemed to overpower the vocals at some times but other than that it was very well performed. The fans were all singing along to every song and once Death Cab For Cutie's performance was over, the crowd chanted for one more song.

The final band of the evening was Psychedelic Furs. Right before they performed, t-shirts and wrist bands advertising Q101 were launched out into the audience to get them hyped up again. That got the crowd pumped up so that by the time Psychedelic Furs came on everyone would be awake. Once the band came on the die hard Psychedelic Furs fans pushed their way upfront while others who were not as familiar with the band stood around waiting to see what they were like. Unfortunately a large portion of the crowd left after Death Cab For Cutie's performance so many people didn't even give Psychedelic Furs a chance. Others stayed for one or two songs by Psychedelic Furs and then left. This band was obviously not the most popular among the group at the theater that night; however the fans that did stay to watch got the most out of their 39 dollar concert ticket.

## The Strays

By Megan Daniels

Walter Payton



Looking for a hot new band? A band called The Strays has just hit the UK music scene in hope to make it big. Their style encompasses a little bit of The Killers and their upbeat rhythms, with a more modern, new, and funky sound. To hear a sample of their music go to [www.thestrays.co.uk](http://www.thestrays.co.uk).

Toby Marriott, the lead of the band, grew up in the UK and then moved to Los Angeles when he was 20 where he met Jeffrey Saenz. Jeffrey ended up becoming the main guitar player for The Strays. Also while in Los Angeles the two met Dimitris Koutsouris. Dimitris was born in Greece and became the bassist for this culturally diverse band. They also picked up a drummer named Cary LaScala on the way.

They traveled together and performed anywhere they could and even got noticed by an indie magazine called Skrtch. Their popularity continued to increase as they were founded by TVT records and are now planning their first album. Their first album is planned to come out some time in the next year, entitled *Le Futur Noir*, after their singles get released.

Be sure to keep a look out for new music by The Strays, coming out soon.





# *Valentine's Day*

Teens Tell NE Their Plans

by Kaya Flowers



**Kinga**

"My plans for Valentine's Day include sitting on my couch eating pizza and watching the ultimate girly-girl movie, 'The Notebook'."



single

single



**Camilla**

"...To honor my friends I plan to make them a frame with a picture of a fond memory, and write them a letter as an expression of my thanks. Then, in the evening, we plan to... go out to eat."

**Sharlett & William**

"We're going to the movies and eat at Zephyr's. We'll do something better on the weekend since it's our 8 month anniversary."



Dating  
7 months

## *What are your plans for Valentine's Day?* ♥

single

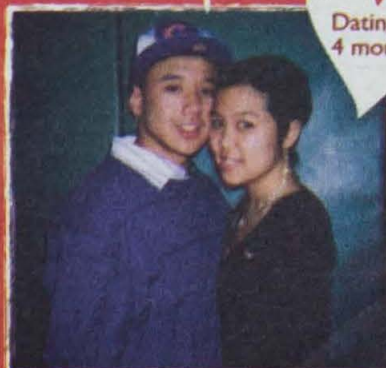


**Peter**

"Since Valentine's Day is on a school day, I plan to do everything I usually do. Anything that is fun-filled will work for me."

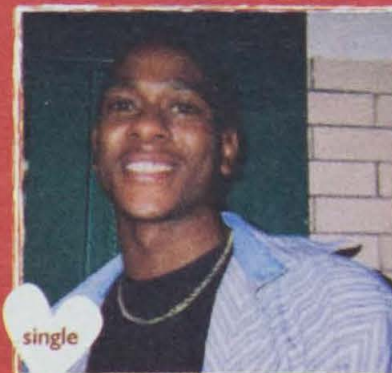
**Marcos & Tanya**

"We expect surprises from each other, to show how much our first love means. We also plan to eat at Maggiano's later that night."



Dating  
4 months

single



**Gerald**

"I will buy all the females in my family cards and recite a poem talking about the beauty of women. My back-up plan is to spend time with my true friends. Keep the epidemic of 'love' flowing on V-Day."



# teens mean business

## The Balloon Buffoon

By Devin Ross  
Walter Payton



While much of the teen population is hunching over their work and worrying about their grades, Stephen Beemsterboer has to juggle many more activities and responsibilities.

Beemsterboer, 15, who attends Walter Payton College Prep, has been an entrepreneur since the age of 13, when he first started his professional balloon business. The business is called The Balloon Buffoon and was first opened for business when his dad began

spreading the word at his church's annual Cooking in the Courtyard Festival that he was taking orders.

"I checked out a book from a Local Chicago Public Library and started to make balloons based on the instructions in the book," said Beemsterboer. "There was also a section in the back of the book that told you how to start a business."

To date, Beemsterboer has had approximately 50 gigs for The Balloon Buffoon. From the start of the business up until now the repertoire of balloons has developed from a single balloon dog to a 30-balloon 3-foot witch's hat.

The Balloon Buffoon isn't the only thing that keeps Beemsterboer busy. From the money that he makes from The Balloon Buffoon, he has an annual Haunted House that is known as Monster Manor. This year alone he had approxi-



mately 300 people attend the event, accumulating about \$1,000. Steven decided to start his haunted house after he had visited a place in Michigan in his youth that was a combination of a haunted house, a prop store and a grocery store. Monster Manor brings in such a crowd from across the city of Chicago that Beemsterboer was featured on the nightly Channel 7 News. Harry Porterfield interviewed him for his segment, Someone You Should Know.

"I felt honored because he only showcases one person each week," said Beemsterboer.

Besides the balloon gigs and Monster Manor that keeps him busy year-round, the entrepreneur also pursues web design. Currently, he has three webpages. They include Balloonbuffoon.com, which is more advertising for the company and tells about the services; Fortheforgetful.com that allows students to keep track of their assignments with color coordinated priority levels; and finally Wpcpzone.com, where students of Walter Payton are able to grade, rate and review their teachers' performances.

WPCP Zone caused a noticeable amount of controversy at Payton College Prep, when it was banned from the system at the school because students were constantly on it during class.

Beemsterboer constantly works on other miscellaneous projects simultaneously with his businesses, such as building his own computers.



# TECHNOLOGY

## 2006 GADGETS

### PLAYSTATION 3

Sony is currently developing their new gaming console-- the Playstation 3, set to be released in the Spring. One of the main features Sony is playing up is the new Blu-Ray disc format. Compared to standard DVDs, each disc can hold over five times more data, allowing more advanced games to be conceived. Plus, the Blu-Ray discs are HD quality, which will be a big competitor for HD-DVDs. In total, the PS3 supports about 25 disc formats, including the Blu-Ray type, compared to the dozen formats that the Xbox 360 supports. Compared to the recently-released Xbox 360, the graphics processing speed is not significantly greater, but the graphics techniques used is being praised by reviewers. "While each [graphic] effect in of itself is subtle, when all combined, the added ambience is noticeably improved from what's seen in top-end PC graphics." Overall, the speed of the PS3 is faster than the 360, including graphics, processing, and memory. However, what the 360 has that the PS3 will not is the entertainment variety. The Playstation 3 is almost exclusively for games, with few extra media features like DVD support, streaming audio and video, and photo slide shows. When the PS3 is released, it is expected to appeal more to full gamers, rather than casual users.

<http://www.macworld.com/news/2005/05/17/xbox360/index.php>

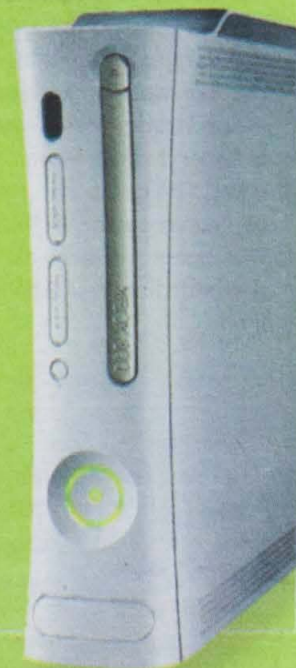
<http://www.ps3land.com>  
Retail: Not released;  
speculated at being \$500



### XBOX 360

Recently, Microsoft released its newest gaming console-- the Xbox 360. You may have heard that it's currently the best gaming system on the market, but how great is it? The new system utilizes three processors, each having a speed over four times greater than the original Xbox's single processor. The graphics capabilities of the 360 have completely doubled, offering a 500Mhz graphics processor compared to the 250Mhz processor of the original. The 512MB of RAM of the Xbox 360 is nearly eight times greater than that of the plain old Xbox. Each system comes with a wireless controller with support of up to three more, before requiring additional hardware. Plus, the Xbox 360 boasts support for High Definition video quality and games that take full advantage of this feature. The 360 gets points for being more of an all in one media center, compared to similar products because of integration with such devices as the Video iPod and PSP, with capabilities to record TV, like Tivo. The system can even be integrated with the user's PC to tap into a pool of media. Overall, if you're looking for an all around home entertainment device and you can afford it, the Xbox 360 is a great choice for you.

<http://www.xbox360.com>  
Retail: Minimal: \$299; Full: \$399





## PHILIPS GOGEAR<sup>HDD6330</sup>

In September of last year, Philips introduced their newest media player-- the GoGear HDD6330, to rival the iPod. The storage capacity is 30GB and only supports audio and photos. The colored screen is also smaller than the iPod's, at only 2 inches. It has more built in features than the iPod does, with an FM tuner and voice recorder. "Native iPod users may have trouble adjusting to the design of the controls," says Troy Dreier of cnet.com. The player only comes in shiny black. It seems that this particular media player would appeal more to an adult crowd, considering the voice recording capabilities.

But in the end, it's a good choice for an iPod alternative if you like to take the path less traveled, unless you'd really like the video support offered by the iPod. It has a lower retail price than the equivalently sized iPod, being about \$30 cheaper.

[http://www.mobilewhack.com/reviews/philips\\_gogear\\_hdd6330\\_jukebox.html](http://www.mobilewhack.com/reviews/philips_gogear_hdd6330_jukebox.html)

Retail: as low as \$279.99



## IPOD VIDEO

Apple recently came out with a new edition of their famous iPod mobile media device, now supporting video. The Video iPod has a 2.5 inch colored screen and the standard click wheel. The complete list of supported media is audio, photos, album covers, and videos. The device comes in two versions, one with 30GB of storage and another with 60GB. The 60GB version can hold up to 15,000 songs, 25,000 photos, and 150 hours of videos. The average movie is 2-3 hours long, so you could potentially fit over fifty full movies on that single iPod. Plus, Apple added videos for sale on iTunes. You can now purchase clips of your favorite TV shows and music videos. With the help of various converters, you can copy all or parts of your DVDs. The physical shape of the new iPod varies from the old, in which the face is less rounded and has a glassier look. It's available in two sleek colors-- classic white and black.

<http://www.apple.com/ipod/pod.html>

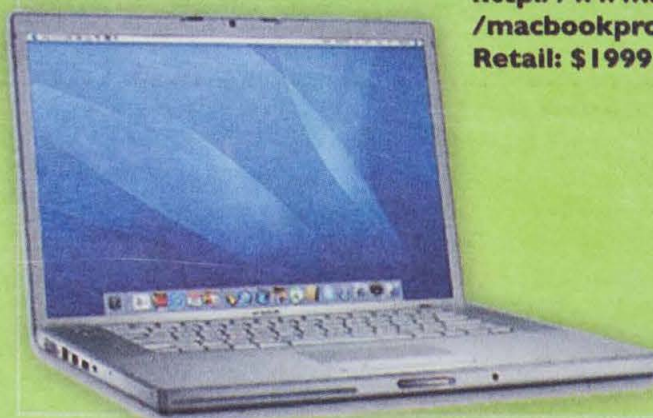
Retail: 30GB: \$299; 60GB: \$399



## MACBOOK PRO

Apple has just come out with a new notebook computer-- their MacBook Pro. This new notebook is faster than any other that Apple has come out with. Features include a built in webcam (iSight), and an Intel processor, for the first time in a Mac. It also has preloaded software to do anything from video conferencing to media playing to the creation of keepsakes like movies, postcards, calendars, and more; it also has a remote. The 15.4 inch colored screen is 67% brighter than previous notebooks, and the keyboard is fully illuminated. The computer even has a built in sensor to tell when you need to illuminate the keyboard and brighten the screen! The MacBook Pro comes in a sleek silver design, to complement the current aesthetic lineup of Apple products.

<http://www.apple.com/macbookpro/>  
Retail: \$1999



## OQO 01+

The OQO 01+, offered by OQO, is a fully featured Windows XP computer that fits in your pocket. It features a full color display, a 30GB hard drive, a 1GHz processor, and 512MB of RAM, in addition to FireWire, USB ports, and built in wireless functionality. It weighs only 14 ounces and measures 4.9 x 3.4 x 0.9 inches. The screen slides to reveal a thumb keyboard and a TrakStik mouse replacement with two mouse buttons. It also features a digital pen and thumb wheel. Considering that it's an actual computer, capable of using many of the same programs as a PC, you can use it for everything, such as listening to music, watching videos, manipulating and viewing photos, surfing the web, and more. It has the same sized storage as an entry level video iPod, but that surely doesn't mean the price is similar! The OQO 01+ retails for just \$1,899, but considering what it can do, it's worth it.

<http://www.oqo.com/>  
Retail: \$1,899





## sports briefs

### The MLL Team Gets a Name

On January 24th, the new franchise of Major League Lacrosse announced their name. The new team was formally introduced at ESPN Zone in downtown Chicago. The name of this new franchise is The Machine. They will be a part of the now ten-team league. The nation's fastest growing sport can now call Chicago home. They will be playing at The Sports Complex at Benedictine University, which is in Lisle, Illinois. The Machine will have their first game on May 20th in Denver against the Outlaws. They will play another away game on May 27th in Baltimore, before coming home for their inaugural season opener on June 3rd against San Francisco. Season tickets for the Machine's inaugural season are on sale now. Individual game tickets will be on sale soon. Major League Lacrosse games will be televised weekly on ESPN2 and three of the Machine's games will be televised on this channel. Hopefully, the inaugural season for the Chicago Machine will be one to remember.

### Winter Olympics

It is February 2006 and it's time for the Winter Olympics. This time around, they will be held in Torino, Italy. The winter games will begin on February 10th and continue through February 26th. They will be televised on the NBC networks. The winter Olympics are not as popular as the summer games, but there is still plenty to look forward to. There is speed skating, figure skating, alpine skiing, bobsledding, ice hockey, and snowboarding. Some of the star athletes are Apolo Anton Ohno, Sasha Cohen, Bode Miller, and Shaun White. Another athlete that is projected to win a medal in skating is Shani Davis. Davis is the first African American to make a U.S. Olympic speed skating team. He is also a native of Chicago; he was born and raised on the South Side. This year the U.S. is expecting to medal in many of their events. Speed skating is one of the many events that the U.S. is hoping to clean up on all of the medals. In 2002, the U.S. came in second with overall medals, with 34 medals only behind Germany, who had 36. This year the U.S. hopes to surpass their rival Germany in total medals.

# The Super Bowl

By Sophia Lugo

Lane Tech

Super Bowl forty is now over and done with. The Pittsburgh Steelers are the Super Bowl XL champions.

This is a title that the Steelers can now say they have gotten five times. They are now the team with the most Super Bowl wins along with the San Francisco 49ers and the Dallas Cowboys.

The Super Bowl is forty years old. However, the first recorded football game was in November of 1869. This game was not like the football that we see today, but it was a college game between Rutgers and Princeton.

The first professional football league was formed in 1902. The first three teams were baseball's Philadelphia Athletics and the Philadelphia Phillies who joined the Pittsburgh Stars. There was a World Series of pro football that same year which was a five team tournament.

Football went sixty four years without having a "Super Bowl". The early years of professional football just had a championship game. It was not the type of championship game that we know of today. They just had a game between the top two teams in the league and the winner became the champion.

The first Super Bowl was on January 15, 1967. It was Kansas City against Green Bay. The Green Bay Packers won the first ever Super Bowl. They also went on to win the second one. Their head coach was Vince Lombardi.

Lombardi was an amazing coach which is why they call the trophy that the Super Bowl champions receive the Lombardi trophy.

This year marked the 40th year of this major event, which is not only huge in the sports world, but it is a time of year where millions of people get together to cheer for their team. Even people who do not like football watch the Super Bowl.

The reason for its popularity has become its reputation for having the year's funniest and best commercials. Also, the half-time show is usually something that everyone enjoys and looks forward to.

Just twenty years ago, the Chicago Bears were in the same position as the Steelers. This season marked the 20th anniversary of the 1985 Bears. That Bears team was one that everyone could be proud of. The team felt so confident going into the big game they created a song, "The Super Bowl Shuffle," which predicted them to win. The song must have worked because the Bears defeated the New England Patriots in Super Bowl twenty.

This Super Bowl had some familiar faces. There were four former Chicago Bears that played in the big game. There were three Seahawks, receiver Bobby Engram who was with the Bears from 1996-2000, guard Chris Gray, who was with the Bears in 1997, and special teams and defensive end Joe Tafoya who was with the Bears from 2001-2003. There was also punter Chris Gardocki who was with the Bears from 1991-1994.

Only one of these former Bears were lucky enough to get the win. Gardocki was a terrific punter that has never had a punt blocked in 15 seasons.

This year's Super Bowl was not a game that kept its viewers on the edge of their seats. The game was somewhat dull. There were a few exciting points of the game, but nothing that made everyone talk about the next day.

The Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger scored a touchdown towards the end of the first half. There was question that Roethlisberger did not cross the goal line. However, the officials reviewed the play and they said that the play did result in a touchdown. Roethlisberger also became the youngest quarterback to win the Super Bowl at the young age of 23.

The big news from the game was that the star running back from the Steelers, Jerome Bettis, is retiring after his 13th season of playing.

"It is an ending," Bettis said. "It's been an incredible ride. I decided to come back and win a championship. Mission accomplished. With that I have to bid a farewell." according to allheadlinenews.com.

Super Bowl is now down in the record books. The Pittsburgh Steelers are now the Champions. There is always next year for the Bears.



# GRADING YOUR SCHOOL

**Chicago Teens:** Tell us about your school, the good, the bad. Education, food service, student voice, sports, and your school security. The school that sends in the most surveys replies will be featured in our March issue. **Send your surveys to: 619 S. Wabash 2nd Floor 60605 or email to [lenox@newexpression.org](mailto:lenox@newexpression.org)**

## EDUCATION

Consideration: Courses offered at your school will help me be successful in my post-secondary education and my career choice. Teachers are fair but friendly. They know me personally and encourage me to develop my individual potential to the best of my ability.

**A** **B** **C** **D** **F**

COMMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

## STUDENT VOICE

Consideration: Principal and faculty ask us about what's bothering us and discuss new policies that affect us. When decisions are made, they explain their logic and listen to our feedback and concerns.

**A** **B** **C** **D** **F**

COMMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

## FOOD SERVICE

Consideration: Food is good with wide variety of choices and served well. Food is healthy but not nasty. Cafeteria has space and we are allowed time to enjoy our meals.

**A** **B** **C** **D** **F**

COMMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

## SPORTS & ACTIVITIES

Consideration: We have many opportunities to play sports and participate in other activities at school. Our coaches and club advisors are knowledgeable and give us a chance of participating/competing without playing favorites. Equipment is functional and facilities are well maintained.

**A** **B** **C** **D** **F**

COMMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

## SECURITY / SAFETY

Consideration: School is safe from violence and negative outside elements. Staff security is competent and diligent about upholding school security standards without denying our personal liberty and rights.

**A** **B** **C** **D** **F**

COMMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

## FACILITY

Consideration: The school is well-maintained with equipment that functions as designed and all areas are kept clean.

**A** **B** **C** **D** **F**

COMMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



# Head On Collision

a short story

By Danielle Eureste

Lane Tech

Maria just moved to Toronto from New York. It's a huge change, considering she's in a new country, technically. She moved up there with her dad after her parent's divorce. She's new and doesn't know anyone or anything in Toronto. She's starting school next week in the middle of the school year, and she's really nervous she's going to be an outcast.

On the first day she meets a guy named Christian. He saw her confusion in the little, one-floored high school, and offered a helping hand. They began talking as he helped her carry her books to her next class. She told him she knew nothing about Toronto and she didn't know anyone there either. He followed by, "You know me!" This is the first smile she's felt a sense of joy, since her move. When they got to her next class she thanked him for helping her out. Just as she was walking into class, he asked her if she'd like to go out sometime, "just to get to see the city, of course." She said yes and they planned to go out of Friday.

The rest of the week seemed to take forever because she was so excited about Friday. She told her dad she was going out with a guy from school, and he was very surprised. She told him she was a junior like her, he was on the wrestling team, and was the first person to talk to her at school. He said he didn't approve of a date so soon, but she denied the term "date" and she said it was just to get to know him and the city.

Christian picked her up at 7:00pm and offered to take her to the mall and a movie. They went to the mall and saw some of the other wrestlers from the wrestling team. They all introduced themselves and asked Christian if she was his new girlfriend. He kept saying,

"No, she's just a friend."

Which they all laughed and said, "You know what that means. HE LIKES HER!!"

Maria tried to laugh this off, but inside she felt awkward. She could tell he was mad at them for saying that, which gave it away that it was true. She didn't mind though. He was gorgeous anyway! Even though they had just met she had fallen for him the moment they met.

Afterward, they went to see a horror movie. Together it was more like a comedy. They made fun of the people that jumped, the bad special effects, and horrible acting. After the hilarious horror flick they sat on a bench and got to know each other better. It turns out they had a lot more in common than they had thought. Their parents were both divorced, they both loved Italian food, and they both adored "Phantom of the Opera."

"I want to apologize for what my friends said at the

mall today. I know it was weird because we don't know each other that much." Christian said. "It's ok, I know how friends can be. They don't realize what they're saying." Maria said trying her best to comfort him.

"But, I have to admit, they know me better than anyone— And it is true, I really do like you. I think you're so much fun to be around, not to mention beautiful" Christian said

Taken completely by surprise Maria looked deep into Christian's crystal blue eyes. Not knowing what to say she said "Thank you." Beginning to laugh she said "Thank you so much, no one's ever said anything like that before."

Christian took her hand and held it tight and asked, "Would you like to be my girl friend? I know it's soon, but I just feel a connection with you"

She couldn't believe what she was hearing. A guy she just met from the Varsity Wrestling Team was asking her out. How could she say no? "Of course, I'd love to be." She couldn't resist and kissed him on the cheek. He then took her face and gently pulled her in for a kiss on the lips.

Realizing how much time had gone by, they got into Christian's car and drove to her house: By the time she got in it was 12:00am, her curfew was 10:30pm. Her dad was waiting for her. He yelled at her and told her she can't go out with Christian anymore. She knew he was just mad so she said, "Whatever Dad, I'll talk to you tomorrow!"

When Maria woke up the next morning she found a post-it and her forehead that said: Good morning Sweetheart, You're grounded Love, Dad ?

She screamed at the top of her lungs and realized she was home alone. She went downstairs, looked out the window, and saw her dad took the car. She took this opportunity to call Christian and tell him she was grounded. She called his cell phone 3 times but it went straight to voice mail. She left a message saying she'd try to get a hold of him before her dad got back. Then she sat on the sofa with a bowl of cereal and turned on the TV.

The TV was stationed to the news. Just as she was about to change the channel, she heard her last name, Rodriguez. She continued to watch. There was a news reporter talking about a car crash involving two people, both people died. She listened for the names. The names were Robert Rodriguez and Christian Rowe.

## horoscope

**Whitney Helm**

Young Women's Leadership Charter School

**Aquarius** Jan 20th-Feb 18th

Let this be a calm and relaxing time for you. Don't stress or over work yourself. You've forgotten how to have fun....let this be a time for you to remember. Be carefree!

**Pisces** Feb 19th - March 20th

Be yourself! Don't try to please others with who you think they will like. True friends will love you for who you are.

**Aries** March 19th - April 19th

Enjoy surprises, even the tiniest package can have the biggest reward.

**Taurus** April 20th - May 20th

Stop the gossiping! Confront a friend and tell her what you really feel. Don't sugarcoat anymore. Take this time to think out what you want to say.

**Gemini** May 21st - June 21st

Don't rush into anything, let nature take its course. The things that are meant to be will happen.

**Cancer** June 22nd - July 22

Trials and setbacks may have you down. But hope for the best and keep your cool.

**Leo** July 23rd - August 22nd

Let go of past regrets and move on into the future. Your life can't always be like a storybook. Hold on to the people in the present as tight as you can.

**Virgo** Aug 23rd - September 22nd

Feeling Restless? Take up a new hobby. You'll be happier in the end.

**Libra** September 23rd - October 23rd

Feeling guilty? Spill your guts, to a diary or a blog. In the long run getting out those feelings will help you.

**Scorpio** October 24 - November 21st

Let your heart lead you as you embark on this new chapter of your life.

**Sagittarius** November 22nd - December 21st

Don't be jealous. Recognize your abilities and don't hate on others

**Capricorn** December 22nd - Jan. 19th

Let yourself be appreciated but don't get big headed, appreciate others as well.



# February 2006

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		01	02 Groundhog Day	03	04	05
06	07	08	09	10 Early Dismissal Staff Development Day	11	12
13 Lincoln's B-Day No Classes	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18	19
20 Presiden't Day No Classes	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

## Year of the Dog

The Chinese New Year's day for 2006 is on January 29, 2006. It is the Year of the Dog. The Year of the Dog is Year 4704 based on Chinese lunar calendar. For people born in the Year of the Dog tend to have a sense of loyalty, honesty, and the ability to inspire others. Dog People can be somewhat selfish, terribly stubborn, and eccentric. They care little for wealth, yet somehow always seem to have money. They can be cold emotionally and sometimes distant at parties. They can find fault with many things and are noted for their sharp tongues. Dog people make good leaders. They are compatible with those born in the Years of the Horse, Tiger, and Rabbit.

